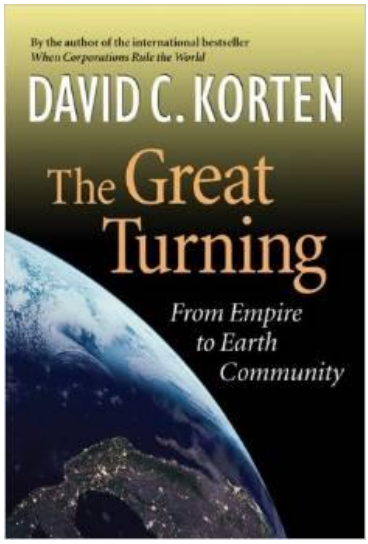

Beyond Leftism

There are some outstanding books that discuss how we're living at a special time relative to the broad arc of human history. Here are just some:

. The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community by David Korten
. Against His-story, Against Leviathan by Fredy Perlman
. The Ishmael trilogy (Ishmael, The Story of B, My Ishmael) by Daniel Quinn
. The Chalice and the Blade by Riane Eisler
. The Turning Point by Fritjof Capra
. The Great U-Turn by Edward Goldsmith
. Overshoot: The Ecological Basis for Revolutionary Change by William Catton
. The Final Empire by William Kotke
. The Myth of the Machine by Lewis Mumford
. A Green History of the World by Clive Ponting
. Against the Megamachine by David Watson
. Ecoshift by Tony Federer

Notice that the above authors would not tend to be associated with the leftist tradition. The latter focuses on socio-economic issues, while the deeper analysis explicated in the above books focuses on the problematic historical trajectories associated with “development” and how, after millennia, a climactic point is approaching.

The new analysis recognizes that there was a wrong-turn radical transition of lifeways five thousand years ago that had both ecological and social ramifications.

Greens are fully aware of the socio-economic issues. Since the rise of the complex that ushered in statist centralization of power, imperial domination, patriarchy, class division, and hyper-exploitation there have been resistance movements against those oppressions. Naturally we are supportive of such movements, advocating egalitarianism, social justice, extensions of democracy, resistance to militarism, etc.

But the emerging analysis elucidates how the above issues are *symptomatic* of the more general and more profound problem. In regard to a solution: Rather than the implementation of a new socio-economic system the Green movement is fundamentally about a different way of living — ecologically/socially sustainable, re-integrated with nature and community. This incorporates but transcends the concerns of traditional leftism.

The five-thousand year wrong turn has resulted in human lifeways becoming more and more divorced from a healthy grounding in nature. I think that, on some level, people have an awareness of this alienation and so, over time, there will be enormous resonance for our "different way of living" ideas. Generation by generation people will be coming around to embracing the "greening" meme as humanity enters what *must* become the Ecozoic Era. Our movement is helping bring to consciousness feelings that people already have within them but which have been lacking a framework for expression and social change praxis.

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